

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR VIEWS

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 1819, (B) STATE 92305

1. IN APRIL 26 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, COUNSELOR
SEBASTIAO BARROS, A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA FOR ECONOMIC AND NUCLEAR MATTERS, COMMENTED ON
BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR POLICY AND THE TLATELOLCO TREATY.

2. REGARDING TLATELOLCO, BARROS DENIED THE VALIDITY OF
A NEWS REPORT IN "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" (APRIL 23) THAT
BRAZIL HAD CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TREATY.
ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE SPEECH GIVEN ON APRIL 21
AT THE OPANAL MEETING IN CARACAS BY AMBASSADOR PAULO
CABRAL DE MELLO, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, "WAS INTERPRETED BY DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES
IN BRASILIA AS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT BRAZIL IS PREPARED
TO DISPENSE WITH THE REQUISITES WHICH PREVENT THE ENTRANCE INTO
FORCE OF THE DOCUMENT, AND THAT BRAZIL WILL DECLARE IT TO BE IN
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FORCE, AT LEAST SO FAR AS BRAZIL IS CONCERNED." (O ESTADO ON
APRIL 22 REPORTED THAT CABRAL DO MELLO AFFIRMED IN CARACAS
THAT THE DENUCLEARIZED ZONE WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE WHEN ALL THE
TERRITORIAL AND MILITARY NUCLEAR POWERS HAVE ACCEPTED PROTOCOLS I
& II, RESPECTIVELY.) BARROS SAID THAT
BRAZIL'S POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED: BRAZIL WOULD PUT THE TREATY
INTO FORCE IN BRAZIL UPON THE SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOLS I AND II BY

THE RELEVANT POWERS. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER BRAZIL WAS PREPARED TO DO THIS EVEN IF RATIFICATION PROCEDURES WERE NOT COMPLETED BY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE ARGENTINA AND CUBA. BARROS CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. " ONLY PROTOCOLS I AND II IMPEDE ENTRY INTO FORCE IN BRAZIL," HE ADDED.

3. BARROS THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES (PNE'S). HE COMMENTED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF PNE'S INTO A COUNTRY INEVITABLY ENHANCES ITS STATUS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WORSENS ITS SECURITY TO A CERTAIN DEGREE. BARROS ASSERTED THAT BRAZIL DID NOT WANT TO INTRODUCE "NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES OR NUCLEAR ARMS" ONTO THE CONTINENT. BRAZIL WOULD GAIN NOTHING SINCE BRAZIL IS THE STRONGEST CONVENTIONAL POWER ON THE CONTINENT. BRAZIL, BARROS SAID, "WAS PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO PNE'S, ASSURED IN THE TLATELOLCO TREATY IF OTHER COUNTRIES DID THE SAME." EMBOFF QUERIED WHETHER THIS CONDITION IMPLIED THAT NUCLEAR POWERS HAD TO AGREE TO A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. BARROS SAID HE COULD NOT SAY; THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH BRAZIL COULD NOT OF COURSE ACCEPT DISCRIMINATION. BARROS REMARKED THAT BRAZIL ALSO "COULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM." WHAT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BRAZIL, BARROS STRESSED, WAS ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

4. CONCERNING BRAZIL'S OVERALL NUCLEAR POLICY POSTURE, BARROS COMMENTED THAT BRAZIL'S NEED FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS FORCED THE GOB TO FORMULATE A POLICY THAT IS "MORE PRACTICAL AND LESS PRINCIPLED" THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. BARROS SUSPECTED THIS TREND WAS OCCURRING IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

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NATIONS SUCH AS BRAZIL, HE SAID, HAD ATTACHED SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PRINCIPLE BECAUSE THEY WERE SO UNSURE OF WHAT THE FUTURE HELD. (COMMENT. EMBOFF INFERRED THAT BARROS IMPLIED THAT BRAZIL NOW NEEDED TO WORRY LESS ABOUT PRINCIPLE BECAUSE THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR FUTURE HAD DECLINED.) THEREFORE, BARROS OBSERVED, "BRAZIL IS NOW WILLING TO TAKE A MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.Z HE SAID BRAZIL RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS. AND HE BELIEVED BRAZIL WOULD BE TAKING A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS DEALING WITH NUCLEAR POLICY. CRIMMINS

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